

THE CHRONOLOGICAL



LIL HARDIN ARMSTRONG
AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA

1936 - 1940

WITH CHU BERRY, JONAH JONES, BUSTER BAILEY,
J.C. HIGGINBOTHAM, JOE THOMAS, SHIRLEY CLAY,
MIDGE WILLIAMS, MANZIE JOHNSON...

CLASSICS

LIL HARDIN ARMSTRONG

AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA

1936 - 1940

DK 003

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
A.A.D.



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|------|----|--|-----------|----------|------|
| 1 | Or Leave Me Alone | (90967-B) | 10-27-36 | 2:58 | 14 | You Mean So Much To Me | (62445-A) | 07-23-37 | 2:50 |
| 2 | My Hi-De-Ho Man | (90968-A) | 10-27-36 | 2:39 | 15 | Let's Get Happy Together | (63236-A) | 02-02-38 | 2:54 |
| 3 | Brown Gal | (90969-A) | 10-27-36 | 2:43 | 16 | Happy Today, Sad Tomorrow | (63237-A) | 02-02-38 | 3:09 |
| 4 | Doin' The Suzie-Q | (90970-A) | 10-27-36 | 2:48 | 17 | You Shall Reap What You Sow | (63238-A) | 02-02-38 | 2:59 |
| 5 | Just For A Thrill | (90971-A) | 10-27-36 | 2:48 | 18 | Oriental Swing | (63239-B) | 02-02-38 | 2:58 |
| 6 | It's Murder | (90972-A) | 10-27-36 | 2:18 | 19 | Safely Locked Up In My Heart | (64604-A) | 09-09-38 | 2:54 |
| 7 | Born To Swing | (61945-A) | 04-15-37 | 2:33 | 20 | Everything's Wrong, Ain't Nothing Right | (64605-A) | 09-09-38 | 3:02 |
| 8 | (I'm On A) Sit-Down Strike For Rhythm | (61946-A) | 04-15-37 | 2:41 | 21 | Harlem On Saturday Night | (64606-A) | 09-09-38 | 2:40 |
| 9 | Bluer Than Blue | (61947-A) | 04-15-37 | 3:08 | 22 | Knock-Knead Sal (On The Mourner's Bench) | (64607-A) | 09-09-38 | 2:31 |
| 10 | I'm Knockin' At The Cabin Door | (61948-A) | 04-15-37 | 2:54 | 23 | Sixth Street | (67331-A) | 03-18-40 | 2:47 |
| 11 | Lindy Hop | (62442-A) | 07-23-37 | 2:49 | 24 | Riffin' The Blues | (67332-A) | 03-18-40 | 2:37 |
| 12 | When I Went Back Home | (62443-A) | 07-23-37 | 2:37 | 25 | Why Is A Good Man So Hard To Find? | (67333-A) | 03-18-40 | 3:00 |
| 13 | Let's Call It Love | (62444-A) | 07-23-37 | 3:00 | 26 | My Secret Flame | (67334-A) | 03-18-40 | 3:09 |

LIL ARMSTRONG VOCAL ON ALL TRACKS EXCEPT LAST FOUR. 25 MIDGE WILLIAMS VOCAL.
26 HILDA ROGERS VOCAL. 23 TO 26 AS LIL "BROWN GAL" ARMSTRONG AND HER DIXIELANDERS.
ALL OTHERS AS LIL ARMSTRONG AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA.

MADE IN THE E.E.C. © 1991 CLASSICS RECORDS

CLASSICS 564 LIL HARDIN ARMSTRONG 1936-1940

LIL HARDIN ARMSTRONG 1936-1940 CLASSICS 564

LIL HARDIN ARMSTRONG AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA 1936 - 1940

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|----------|------|
| 1 | OR LEAVE ME ALONE (Buck)
(90967-B) | 10-27-36 | 2:58 |
| 2 | MY HI-DE-HO MAN (Armstrong)
(90968-A) | 10-27-36 | 2:39 |
| 3 | BROWN GAL (Armstrong-Avon)
(90969-A) | 10-27-36 | 2:43 |
| 4 | DOIN' THE SUZIE-Q (Armstrong)
(90970-A) | 10-27-36 | 2:48 |
| 5 | JUST FOR A THRILL (Armstrong)
(90971-A) | 10-27-36 | 2:48 |
| 6 | IT'S MURDER (Buck-Armstrong)
(90972-A) | 10-27-36 | 2:18 |
| 7 | BORN TO SWING (Armstrong-Avon)
(61945-A) | 04-15-37 | 2:33 |
| 8 | (I'M ON A) SIT-DOWN STRIKE FOR RHYTHM (Armstrong-Avon)
(61946-A) | 04-15-37 | 2:41 |
| 9 | BLUER THAN BLUE (Armstrong-Avon)
(61947-A) | 04-15-37 | 3:08 |
| 10 | I'M KNOCKIN' AT THE CABIN DOOR (Armstrong-Avon)
(61948-A) | 04-15-37 | 2:54 |
| 11 | LINDY HOP (Armstrong-Avon)
(62442-A) | 07-23-37 | 2:49 |
| 12 | WHEN I WENT BACK HOME (Armstrong-Avon)
(62443-A) | 07-23-37 | 2:37 |
| 13 | LET'S CALL IT LOVE (Armstrong-Matthews)
(62444-A) | 07-23-37 | 3:00 |

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|----------|------|
| 14 | YOU MEAN SO MUCH TO ME (Jackson)
(62445-A) | 07-23-37 | 2:50 |
| 15 | LET'S GET HAPPY TOGETHER (Armstrong)
(63236-A) | 02-02-38 | 2:54 |
| 16 | HAPPY TODAY, SAD TOMORROW (Livingston-Armstrong)
(63237-A) | 02-02-38 | 3:09 |
| 17 | YOU SHALL REAP WHAT YOU SOW (Robinson)
(63238-A) | 02-02-38 | 2:59 |
| 18 | ORIENTAL SWING (Spencer)
(63239-B) | 02-02-38 | 2:58 |
| 19 | SAFELY LOCKED UP IN MY HEART (Armstrong-Avon)
(64604-A) | 09-09-38 | 2:54 |
| 20 | EVERYTHING'S WRONG, AIN'T NOTHING RIGHT (Armstrong-Evans)
(64605-A) | 09-09-38 | 3:02 |
| 21 | HARLEM ON SATURDAY NIGHT (Johnson-Smith)
(64606-A) | 09-09-38 | 2:40 |
| 22 | KNOCK-KNEED SAL (ON THE MOURNER'S BENCH)
(64607-A) (Randolph-Armstrong) | 09-09-38 | 2:31 |
| 23 | SIXTH STREET (Fitzpatrick)
(67331-A) | 03-18-40 | 2:47 |
| 24 | RIFFIN' THE BLUES
(67332-A) (Fitzpatrick) | 03-18-40 | 2:37 |
| 25 | WHY IS A GOOD MAN SO HARD TO FIND? (Davis)
(67333-A) | 03-18-40 | 3:00 |
| 26 | MY SECRET FLAME (Armstrong-Avon)
(67334-A) | 03-18-40 | 3:09 |

THE CLASSICS CHRONOLOGICAL SERIES

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 500: ELLA FITZGERALD 1935-1937 | 523: LOUIS ARMSTRONG 1938-1939 | 546: FLETCHER HENDERSON 1931-1932 |
| 501: JIMMIE LUNCEFORD 1930-1934 | 524: LIONEL HAMPTON 1937-1938 | 547: LOUIS ARMSTRONG 1930-1931 |
| 502: CHICK WEBB 1929-1934 | 525: ELLA FITZGERALD 1939 | 548: TEDDY WILSON 1937-1938 |
| 503: COUNT BASIE 1936-1938 | 526: CAB CALLOWAY 1931-1932 | 549: BENNIE MOTEN 1923-1927 |
| 504: COUNT BASIE 1938-1939 | 527: FLETCHER HENDERSON 1934-1937 | 550: DUKE ELLINGTON 1928 |
| 505: JIMMIE LUNCEFORD 1934-1935 | 528: EARL HINES 1934-1937 | 551: HENRY "RED" ALLEN 1933-1935 |
| 506: ELLA FITZGERALD 1937-1938 | 529: LOUIS ARMSTRONG 1932-1933 | 552: BENNY CARTER 1937-1939 |
| 507: ART TATUM 1932-1934 | 530: BENNY CARTER 1933-1936 | 553: DON REDMAN 1933-1936 |
| 508: TEDDY WILSON 1934-1935 | 531: TEDDY WILSON 1937 | 554: CAB CALLOWAY 1934-1937 |
| 509: LOUIS ARMSTRONG 1934-1936 | 532: JIMMIE LUNCEFORD 1939 | 555: FLETCHER HENDERSON 1931 |
| 510: JIMMIE LUNCEFORD 1935-1937 | 533: COUNT BASIE 1939 (VOLUME II) | 556: TEDDY WILSON 1938 |
| 511: TEDDY WILSON 1935-1936 | 534: LIONEL HAMPTON 1938-1939 | 557: LOUIS ARMSTRONG 1929-1930 |
| 512: LOUIS ARMSTRONG 1936-1937 | 535: FLETCHER HENDERSON 1932-1934 | 558: BENNIE MOTEN 1927-1929 |
| 513: COUNT BASIE 1939 | 536: LOUIS ARMSTRONG 1931-1932 | 559: DUKE ELLINGTON 1928-1929 |
| 514: EARL HINES 1932-1934 | 537: CAB CALLOWAY 1932 | 560: ART TATUM 1934-1940 |
| 515: LOUIS ARMSTRONG 1937-1938 | 538: EARL HINES 1937-1939 | 561: HOT LIPS PAGE 1938-1940 |
| 516: CAB CALLOWAY 1930-1931 | 539: DUKE ELLINGTON 1924-1927 | 562: LIONEL HAMPTON 1939-1940 |
| 517: CHICK WEBB 1935-1938 | 540: HENRY "RED" ALLEN 1929-1933 | 563: COUNT BASIE 1939-1940 |
| 518: ELLA FITZGERALD 1938-1939 | 541: BENNY CARTER 1936 | 564: LIL HARDIN ARMSTRONG 1936-1940 |
| 519: FLETCHER HENDERSON 1937-1938 | 542: DUKE ELLINGTON 1927-1928 | 565: JIMMIE LUNCEFORD 1939-1940 |
| 520: JIMMIE LUNCEFORD 1937-1939 | 543: DON REDMAN 1931-1933 | 566: ELLA FITZGERALD 1939-1940 |
| 521: TEDDY WILSON 1936-1937 | 544: CAB CALLOWAY 1932-1934 | 567: EARL HINES 1939-1940 |
| 522: BENNY CARTER 1929-1933 | 545: EARL HINES 1928-1932 | 568: CAB CALLOWAY 1937-1938 |
| | | 569: DUKE ELLINGTON 1929... |

LIL HARDIN ARMSTRONG AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA 1936 - 1940

American producer and critic Chris Albertson once described Lil Hardin Armstrong as "without doubt, the most vivacious jazz performer" he had ever met. Although she was never among the most impressive pianists around, her numerous recordings from close to five decades – not only those made together with her husband Louis Armstrong – all bear the stamp of a highly individual artist and personality!

Lillian Hardin was born in Memphis, Tennessee in February 1898. After having studied music at Fisk University, she moved to Chicago before turning twenty. Playing frequently with King Oliver since 1921, Lillian Hardin was able to cut her first records with him in 1923. The band's second cornetist, Louis Armstrong, and the young pianist married the following year. Their marriage lasted until 1931. Lil Hardin Armstrong, at the time more ambitious than her husband, was mainly responsible for Louis' taking the chance to work with the most popular orchestra of the time, Fletcher Henderson's. During his stay she was leading her own small group in Chicago, which Louis joined late in 1925. Both musicians can of course be heard on the legendary "Hot Five" and "Hot Seven" recordings of the period. At the end of the decade Lil Hardin Armstrong continued her studies, mainly in classical music in Chicago and New York. She later appeared in several successful Broadway-shows, namely "Hot Chocolates" and "Shuffle Along". In the mid and late thirties Lil fronted groups and orchestras of various sizes with which she toured mainly between Chicago and New York. After returning to Chicago in 1940 she played longer residencies as a soloist in various nightclubs in around the city. Lil Hardin Armstrong visited Europe for the first and only time in 1952, when she could be heard in Paris and London. She hardly ever left the city of Chicago during the last two decades of her life although occasionally touring Canada. Lil Hardin Armstrong died while participating at a memorial concert for her former husband on August 27, 1971 – some two months after Satchmo.

This CD includes all recordings made under the name of Lil Armstrong between October 1936 and March 1940 in chronological order. All of these sessions are interesting since they present a mixture of famous and lesser-known musicians. The first six tracks feature a particularly attractive line-up, although Chu Berry seems not to have his best day. Robert Carroll's tenor on the other hand is very impressive on "Born To Swing" and "Sit-Down Strike For Rhythm". The September 1938 date presents Roy Eldridge's cousin Reunald Jones on trumpet: It is almost unbelievable that this gifted musician was granted so little solo-space during his career – even when he later worked with Count Basie. His solos on those four tracks are outstanding – to say the least. Listen also to J.C. Higginbotham, specially on "Harlem On Saturday Night"! The final session with Jonah Jones (not related to Reunald) is without any of Lil's pleasant vocals but includes the singing of Midge Williams and one Hilda Rogers. All things considered, very interesting small-group swing, indeed!

Anatol Schenker, November 1990.

DISCOGRAPHY LIL HARDIN ARMSTRONG 1936 - 1940

LIL ARMSTRONG AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA: Joe Thomas-t/Buster Bailey-cl/Chu Berry-ts/Teddy Cole-p/Huey Long-g/John Frazier-sb/Lil Armstrong-v.

		Chicago, October 27, 1936.
90967-B	Or Leave Me Alone - vLA	Decca 1092
90968-A	My Hi-De-Ho Man - vLA	Decca 1059
90969-A	Brown Gal - vLA	Decca 1092
90970-A	Doin' The Suzie-Q - vLA	Decca 1059
90971-A	Just For The Thrill - vLA	Decca 1182
90972-A	It's Murder - vLA	Decca 1182

LIL ARMSTRONG AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA: Joe Thomas-t/Buster Bailey-cl/Robert Carroll-ts/James Sherman-p/Arnold Adams-g/Wellman Braud-sb/George "Pop" Foster-d/Lil Armstrong-v.

		New York, April 15, 1937.
61945-A	Born To Swing - vLA	Decca 1299
61946-A	(I'm On A) Sit-Down Strike For Rhythm - vLA	Decca 1272
61947-A	Bluer Than Blue - vLA	Decca 1299
61948-A	I'm Knockin' At The Cabin Door - vLA	Decca 1272

LIL ARMSTRONG AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA: Shirley Clay-t/Buster Bailey-cl/Prince Robinson-ts/James Sherman-p/Arnold Adams-g/Wellman Braud-sb/Manzie Johnson-d.

		New York, July 23, 1937.
62442-A	Lindy Hop - vLA	Decca 1388
62443-A	When I Went Back Home - vLA	Decca 1388
62444-A	Let's Call It Love - vLA	Decca 1502
62445-A	You Mean So Much To Me - vLA	Decca 1502

LIL ARMSTRONG AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA: Ralph Muzillo or Johnny McGee-t/AI Philburn-tb/Tony Zimmers-cl-ts/Frank Froeba-p/Dave Barbour-g/Haig Stephens-sb/Sam Weiss-d/Lil Armstrong-v.

		New York, February 2, 1938.
63236-A	Let's Get Happy Together - vLA	Decca 1904
63237-A	Happy Today, Sad Tomorrow - vLA	Decca 1722
63238-A	You Shall Reap What You Sow - vLA	Decca 1722
63239-B	Oriental Swing - vLA	Decca 1904

LIL ARMSTRONG AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA: Reunald Jones-t/J. C. Higginbotham-tb/Buster Bailey-cl/Lil Armstrong-p-v/Wellman Braud-sb/O'Neil Spencer-d.

		New York, September 9, 1938.
64604-A	Safely Locked Up In My Heart - vLA	Decca 2234
64605-A	Everything's Wrong, Ain't Nothing Right - vLA	Decca 2542
64606-A	Harlem On Saturday Night - vLA	Decca 2234
64607-A	Knock-Kneed Sal (On The Mourner's Bench) - vLA	Decca 2542

LIL "BROWN GAL" ARMSTRONG AND HER DIXIELANDERS: Jonah Jones-t/Don Stovall-as/Russell Johns-ts/Lil Armstrong-p/Wellman Braud-sb/Manzie Johnson-d/Midge Williams -Hilda Rogers-v.

		New York, March 18, 1940.
67331-A	Sixth Street	Decca 7739
67332-A	Riffin' The Blues	Decca 7803
67333-A	Why Is A Good Man So Hard To Find? - vMW	Decca 7803
67334-A	My Secret Flame - vHR	Decca 7739



LIL HARDIN ARMSTRONG
AND HER SWING ORCHESTRA
1936-1940

CLASSICS
SIRM

CLASSICS 564

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

CLASSICS

© 1991 - CLASSICS RECORDS

TOUS DROITS DU PRODUCTEUR PHO-0086444 DUE ET DU PROPRIÉTAIRE DE LA NOTICE RECHERCHÉES SAUF AUTORISATION LA DUPLICATION LA LOCATION LE PRET L'UTILISATION DE CE DISQUE POUR EXECUTION ET RADIODIFFUSION SONT INTERDITS TOUTE VIOLATION PASSIVE DES REVISÉES PRE-LES ART 54 10 86690 DU 31 05 1991 MADE IN FRANCE